

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

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R 160745Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5507

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, JA

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS ON MARINE WITHDRAWALS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION AMEMBASSY TOKYO AIG8700 FM COMUSJAPAN  
YOKOTA R142300Z FEB 77 REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE

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SUBJ: JAPANESE PRESS TRANSLATIONS FOR MONDAY, 14 FEB 77

NOTE: FOLLOWING ARE SUMMARY TRANSLATIONS APPEARING IN MAJOR  
JAPANESE NEWSPAPERS. APPEARANCE HEREIN DOES NOT MEAN STORIES  
ARE FACTUALLY ACCURATE AND DOES NOT CONSTITUTE ENDORSEMENT OF  
POINTS OF VIEW BY USFJ.

1. USFJ REDUCTION: (YOMIURI, 11 FEB) - IT HAS BECOME CERTAIN  
THAT THE USMC FORCE IN JAPAN WILL FURTHER BE STREAMLINED IN OCT  
THIS YEAR, A JDA SOURCE REVEALED ON THE 10TH. ACCORDING TO  
HIGHLY RELIABLE INFORMATION THE JDA HAS OBTAINED FROM THE U.S.  
FORCES IN JAPAN, THE STREAMLINING PLAN CALLS FOR (1) PULL-OUT  
OF ONE INFANTRY BATTALION (ABOUT 1,200 MEN) FROM THE 3RD MARINE  
DIVISION IN OKINAWA, WHICH PRESENTLY CONSISTS OF SIX INFANTRY  
BATTALIONS AND ONE ARTILLERY REGIMENT, IN OCT FOR REASSIGNMENT  
TO THE STATES AND (2) ESTABLISHMENT OF A SYSTEM UNDER WHICH ONE  
BATTALION FORCE OF MARINES WILL BE SEALIFTED FROM THE STATES TO  
OKINAWA REGULARLY AT THE INTERVALS OF ABOUT SIX MONTHS IN TURN  
AS A REPLACEMENT. FROM THIS AUTUMN ON, THEN, THE GROUND FORCE OF  
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THE 3RD MARINE DIVISION IN OKINAWA IS TO CONSIST OF FIVE PERMA-  
NENTLY ASSIGNED BATTALIONS AND ONE ROTATING BATTALION, WHICH  
MEANS THAT ITS COMBAT CAPABILITIES WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED. JDA  
SPECIALISTS SAY THAT THE DOD IS STUDYING A PLAN TO SHIFT EMPHA-  
SIS OF THE USMC MISSION FROM THE PACIFIC AREA TO THE EUROPEAN  
THEATER, WITH A GROWING OPINION THAT THE THREE USMC DIVISIONS  
SHOULD BE COUNTED AS A RESERVE FORCE FOR EUROPE. ODDS ARE THAT

OF THE THREE USMC DIVISIONS, AT LEAST THE 1ST (WHOSE HEADQUARTERS IS LOCATED ON THE WEST COAST) WILL BE REORGANIZED FOR BI-OCEAN OPERATIONS IN THE PACIFIC AND THE ATLANTIC. THEREFORE, THE JDA IS INCLINED TO TAKE THE PROJECTED PULL-OUT OF ONE INFANTRY BATTAGION FROM THE 3RD MARINE DIVISION, OKINAWA, AS SIGNIFYING THE START OF A NEW SYSTEM FOR USMC BI-OCEAN OPERATIONS. AS THE NEW SYSTEM GETS INTO FULL SWING, THEY THINK, THE FIVE PERMANENTLY ASSIGNED INFANTRY BATTALIONS OF THE 3RD MARINE DIVISION WILL BECOME INVOLVED IN IT AND, EVENTUALLY, THE U.S. MAY DEPLOY USMC GROUND TROOPS TO JAPAN "ONLY IN TIME OF EMERGENCY" DISCONTINUING THE "PERIODICAL AND ROTATING ASSIGNMENT". YOMIURI, 12 FEB, QUOTED A JDA SPECULATION THAT THE U.S. MIGHT EXCLUDE GROUND TROOPS FROM ITS ARMED FORCES DEPLOYMENT IN THE FAR EAST AREA IN THE LONG RUN. (MOST PAPERS, 10-11 FEB) - ON THE 9TH, A U.S. GOVERNMENT SOURCE REVEALED THE FACT THAT THE U.S. CURTAILED A TOTAL OF ABOUT 2,000 MEN FROM THE U.S. FORCES IN JAPAN LAST YEAR, INCLUDING 600 MARINES IN OKINAWA AND 200 USMC AIRCRAFT WING PERSONNEL. THE REST (1,200) WERE ARMY PERSONNEL STATIONED IN MAINLAND JAPAN. THESE USMC PERSONNEL, INCLUDING AIRCRAFT WING MEMBERS, HAD BEEN ASSIGNED TO OKINAWA DURING THE VIETNAM WAR AS REINFORCEMENTS AND THEY WERE TRANSFERRED TO USMC BASES IN CALIF. BEFORE THE END OF LAST YEAR. THE MANPOWER OF THE U.S. FORCES IN JAPAN NOW TOTALS ABOUT 46,000.

2. NDC STUDIES USFK ISSUE: (MOST PAPERS, 11 FEB) - ON THE 10TH, MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE COUNCIL (NDC) HAD A MEETING TO DISCUSS THE ASIAN SITUATION AND THE USFK WITHDRAWAL ISSUE. AS THE RESULT, THEY REACHED A CONCLUSION THAT THE PROPOSED WITHDRAWAL WILL BE CARRIED OUT AT A SLOW PACE SO AS NOT TO COLLAPSE THE POWER BALANCE IN THE KOREAN PENINSULA. THE MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY UNCLASSIFIED

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FOREIGN MINISTER HATOYAMA, JDA DIRECTOR GENERAL MIHARA, FINANCE MINISTER BO AND OTHER CABINET MINISTERS CONCERNED, EXCLUDING PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA.

3. U.S. GOVERNMENT SOURCE ON USFK ISSUE: (MOST PAPERS, 12 FEB) - ON THE 10TH, IN WASHINGTON, A U.S. GOVERNMENT SOURCE EXPRESSED HIS VIEW THAT JAPAN HAD VIRTUALLY AGREED TO THE BASIC POLICY OF THE NEW AMERICAN GOVERNMENT TO WITHDRAW U.S. TROOPS STEP BY STEP FROM THE ROK. HE SAID THAT THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT IS NOT IN A POSITION CAPABLE OF OPPOSING ANY DISPOSITION OF U.S. TROOPS DEPLOYED IN THIRD COUNTRIES. IT IS SUPPOSED THEREFORE THAT "CLOSE CONSULTATIONS" EXPECTED TO BE HELD IN THE FUTURE BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF JAPAN AND THE U.S. ABOUT THE USFK WILL BE CONCERNED NOT WITH THE PROPRIETY OF A PULLOUT BUT WITH TIMING AND SCALE OF WITHDRAWAL. MAINICHI, 14 FEB, EDITORIALY SAID THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING THAT MUST BE DONE IN CONNECTION WITH THE USFK WITHDRAWAL IS TO SEEK MEASURES TO RELAX THE TENSION IN THE KOREAN PENINSULA.

4. NORTH KOREA ON USFK: (SANKEI, 11 FEB) - THE NORTH KOREAN LABOR PARTY ORGAN, DATED 8 FEB, STRESSED THAT WITHDRAWAL OF N-

WEAPONS AND U.S. TROOPS FROM THE ROK IS INDISPENSABLE FOR GETTING RID OF HAZARDS OF A NUCLEAR WAR. THE PAPER BRANDED A ROK PROPOSED NORTH-SOUTH NONAGGRESSION PACT AS A "POLITICAL VEIL" TO LEGALIZE NATIONAL DISRUPTION AND PROMOTE WAR PREPARATIONS, AND STRESSED THE NEED FOR STEPS TO EASE THE TENSION IN THE KOREAN PENINSULA AND REMOVE OBSTACLES TO NATIONAL UNIFICATION AND FACTORS FOR A N-WAR.

5. OKINAWA MILITARY LAND AREA BILL: (ASAHI, 12 FEB) - ON THE 11TH, C CGP FACT-FINDING TEAM COMPLETED A FIELD STUDY FOR THREE DAYS ABOUT THE OKINAWA MILITARY BASE AREA ISSUE. AT A NEWS CONFERENCE HELD IN NAHA THE SAME DAY, THE TEAM LEADER (DIETMAN YASUO SUZUKIRI), INDICATED A STRONG PARTY ATTITUDE AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSED OKINAWA MILITARY BASE AREA BILL. (ALL PAPERS, 13-14 FEB) - IN NAHA ON THE 12TH, A JSP FACT-FINDING TEAM PUBLISHED A JSP PLAN COUNTERING THE GOVERNMENT'S BILL FOR OKINAWA LAND REGISTRATION (INCLUDING MILITARY BASE AREAS&. THE JSP PLAN REFLECTS 90 PCT OF THE PROPOSITIONS FORMULATED RECENTLY BY THE OKINAWA PREF GOVERNMENT ON THIS MATTER.

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6. TWO-DAYS-OFF-A-WEEK FOR OKINAWA POLICEMEN: (TOKYO TIMES, 13 FEB) - ON THE 12TH, THE OKINAWA PREF POLICE STARTED TO TEST THE USE OF A TWO-DAYS-OFF-A-WEEK SYSTEM FOR LOCAL POLICE PERSONNEL. THIS IS A RARE PRACTICE BY POLICE IN THIS COUNTRY.

7. CHINA: (SANKI, 11 FEB) - ON THE 10TH, THE NEW CHINA NEWS SERVICE INDICATED THAT CHINA WANTS THE U.S. TO CONTINUOUSLY RETAIN HER MILITARY FORCES IN THE PACIFIC AREA, IN ORDER TO COUNTER A RUSSIAN INTENTION TO INCREASE ITS INFLUENCES IN THAT AREA. (MAINICHI, NIHON KEIZAI, SANKI, 14 FEB& - IN ITS MAGAZINE "NATIONAL DEFENSE MONITOR" (JANUARY ISSUE), THE NATIONAL DEFENSE INFORMATION CENTER HEADED BY REAR ADM (RET.) LAROCQUE SAID THAT CHINESE NUCLEAR ARMAMENT IS MAKING A STEADY PROGRESS. IT SAID THAT CHINA NOW POSSESSES 30-50 MISSILES WITH A RANGE OF 1,000 KM, 20-30 MISSILES WITH A RANGE OF 2,500 KM, AND 50 TU 16 BOMBERS WHOSE FLYING RADIUS IS 2,600 KM AND THAT ALL OF THESE IS CAPABLE OF CARRYING N-AMMUNITION. UNQUOTE NO SIGNATURE

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## Message Attributes

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YOKOTA R142300Z FEB 77 REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO  
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